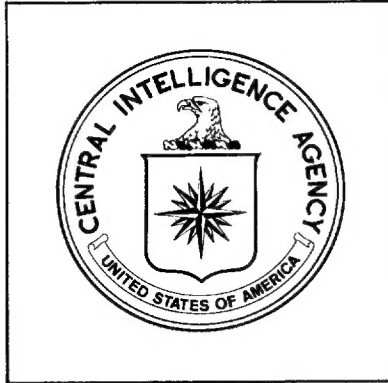


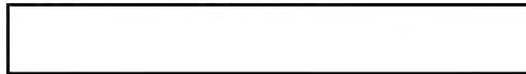
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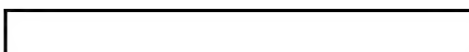
**STAFF NOTES**

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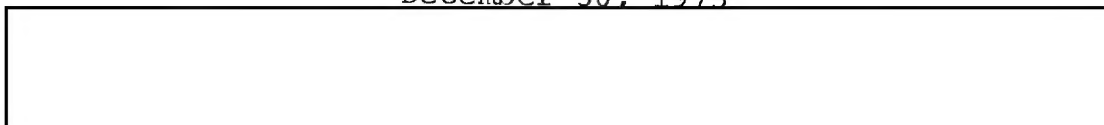


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*C O N T E N T S*

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Vietnam: Provinces Consolidated,  
Renamed in Both Zones. . . . .3

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Vietnam: Provinces Consolidated,  
Renamed in Both Zones

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Hanoi on December 27 announced a major reorganization of the administrative structure in North Vietnam. Thirteen of the 23 provinces in the north have been combined into six new provinces. In all but one case, two adjacent provinces were simply merged into one and the new province given a name made up of elements from the names of the abolished provincial units, i.e., Cao Bang and Lang Son become the new province of Cao Lang.

This reorganization was made known in a resolution following the year-end meeting of the North Vietnamese National Assembly. The resolution also noted that Quang Binh Province and the special Vinh Linh zone adjacent to the former demarcation line separating North and South Vietnam will be merged with Quang Tri and Thua Thien--the two northernmost provinces in South Vietnam. This step, Hanoi notes, will be "negotiated with" the Provisional Revolutionary Government in the south. This three-province merger will have a particularly symbolic significance, formally eliminating the dividing line between the north and south.

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The consolidation of provinces is clearly part of Hanoi's overall scheme to prepare the two zones

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for formal reunification "on the state plane."  
Under the old Communist structure, there were 23  
provinces in the north and 39 in the south. The  
wholesale elimination of provinces should help  
reduce the total number of provinces in the unified  
Vietnam to more manageable proportions. This should  
help facilitate Hanoi's economic planning as it  
prepares a coordinated state plan "for the whole  
country." [REDACTED]

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